The most of the schemes in part (b) of the reply above are recent schemes started to make information dissemination on the latest techniques more effective. New KVKs are also making contribution in this regard.

Standing Committee on Agriculture

3358. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formed a separate Standing Committee on Agriculture for improving conditions of this sector;

(b) if so, whether this Committee would look into the root cause of farmers suicides and strive to alleviate poverty by providing them with better infrastructure;

(c) whether any suggestion has been made that Centre should invest in rural sector and make massive efforts to attract and retain youth in villages;

(d) within what time this Committee had submitted its report to Government; and

(e) the steps taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) An Agriculture Coordination Committee has been recently constituted under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, to evolve a systematic approach to policy formulation on issues pertainings to agriculture and to promote inter-sectoral and inter-departmental coordination in planning and implementation.

Separately, the National Commission on Farmers was set up by Government in February, 2004 to examine and recommend policies, programmes and measures on various issues confronting Indian Farmers and to suggest appropriate interventions for improving the economic viability and sustainability of diversified agriculture including horticulture, livestock, dairy and fisheries. The Commission was later reconstituted in November, 2004 and assigned a revised set of terms of reference.

The reconstituted Commission submitted its First Interim Report in December, 2004 and the Second Interim Report in August-September, 2005. These Reports suggest several measures including step up in public investment for improving the agriculture sector.

The inter-departmental consultation to firm up the views of the Government on these recommendations has been initiated.

Assistance to a dairy run by ladies in Rajasthan

†3359. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is only one dairy being run by ladies which is situated in Nayala village of Rajasthan;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the financial assistance had been provided to this dairy by Mr. Bill Clinton, the then President of U.S.A.;

(c) if so, the details of the funds given and its utilization; and

(d) the details of the progress made so far, at the said dairy and its actual status at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) There are many Village Level Dairy Cooperative Societies run by women in addition to dairy Cooperative Society located at the village Nayala of Rajasthan. The economic assistance extended due to courtesy of Mr. Bill Clinton the then President of U.S. was as under:-

(i) Government Girls School, Nayala - Five Personal Computers

(ii) Gram Panchayat, Nayala - One printer

(iii) Jaipur Dairy and its affiliated Dairy Cooperative Societies, including Nayala - 15 Personal Computers and 4 printers.

The amount of economic assistance received through executive officer of US Aid, New Delhi was US $ 57,380 which has been utilized.

(d) During the year 2004-05, the women dairy society at Nayala village had 38 producer members who poured 156 Kg of milk per day on an average and made a gross profit of Rs. 47921.60.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.